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LETTER DATED 16 APRIL 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of Arab States for the month of April 1997 and on behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of resolution 5638, of 31 March 1997, adopted at the one hundred and seventh regular session of the Council of the League of Arab States, entitled "The situation in Somalia".

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali AL-SAEID
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Kuwait to
the United Nations and Chairman
of the Group of Arab States

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Annex

The situation in Somalia

The Council of the League of Arab States,

Having considered the note by the General Secretariat, the previous resolutions of the Council on this question and the recommendation of the Political Affairs Committee,

Having studied the most recent developments in the situation in Somalia,

Proceeding from the Declaration of the Arab Summit Conference held in Cairo from 21 to 23 June 1996,

Considering the resolutions of the Security Council on this subject, in particular resolution 733 (1992) and the statement by the President of the Council dated 27 February 1997,

Reaffirming the complementarity between action by Arabs and the efforts of all international and regional organizations, the other international parties and the States bordering on Somalia, and the necessity of coordinating all such action with a view to ensuring the stability, unity, integrity and sovereignty of Somalia, which will help to strengthen stability in the region as a whole,

Expressing its satisfaction with the positive attitudes expressed by the Somali leaders who took part in the 1996 Nairobi meeting, their dialogue aimed at establishing peace and security and reopening the port and airport of Mogadishu, the agreement concluded between the Somali factions in Addis Ababa on 3 January 1997 to establish a Council of National Salvation of Somalia and their intention to pursue the dialogue with other Somali parties which have not participated in this agreement and underscoring the importance of participation by the other Somali parties in these peace efforts aimed at achieving national reconciliation,

Having heard the statements by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the presentation by the Secretary-General concerning the latest developments with regard to Somalia, in the light of the meeting he has had in Cairo with the Executive Committee of the Council of National Salvation of Somalia,

1. Urges all the Somali parties to desist immediately from the fighting and to settle their disputes by means of dialogue and national reconciliation, which is the only way to end the bloodshed in Somalia, alleviate the suffering of the Somali people and safeguard its supreme national interests;

2. Welcomes the positive and peaceful developments in the situation, including the creation of the Council of National Salvation of Somalia, announced in Sodere, Ethiopia, and calls upon the members of the Council of National Salvation to pursue a dialogue with all the other Somali parties with a view to achieving national reconciliation in Somalia;

3. Calls upon the Special Ministerial Committee on Somalia to redouble its efforts to have contacts with the different Somali factions, States bordering on Somalia and the relevant international and regional organizations and to establish coordination with them aimed at securing a peaceful settlement of the Somali conflict, the holding of a national reconciliation conference within Somalia and the establishment of a broadly representative national authority reflecting the wishes of the different segments of the Somali population;

4. Expresses its appreciation for all the efforts made at the local, regional and international levels to promote a peaceful settlement in Somalia, and reaffirms the importance of the complementarity of all such efforts with a view to ensuring Somalia's stability, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity;

5. Calls upon international and regional organizations, in particular the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the European Union, to strengthen their cooperation with the League of Arab States in order to assist the Somali parties to pursue the national dialogue and achieve Somali reconciliation;

6. Calls upon the international community to continue to provide humanitarian assistance in all parts of Somalia and to allocate financial resources and in-kind contributions to assist the Somali people in promoting the recovery and reconstruction of its country once security and stability have been achieved in Somalia;

7. Calls upon the international community, as represented by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, to take the necessary measures to put an end to the disposal by certain parties of toxic wastes in Somali territory and to illegal fishing in Somalia's territorial waters;

8. Urges all the parties to comply with the embargo on deliveries of weapons to Somalia in accordance with Security Council resolution 733 (1992) so as to contribute to security in Somalia and help to bring about a peaceful settlement of the Somali crisis;

9. Calls upon member States to pay their financial contributions in order to enable the League of Arab States to assume its political and humanitarian role vis-à-vis the Somali people, to participate in the restoration of stability throughout the Somalia territory and to safeguard Somalia's unity and national sovereignty;

10. Expresses its gratitude to the State of Kuwait for its speedy offer of a contribution of $100,000 to support the national reconciliation efforts in Somalia;

11. Expresses its gratitude and pays a tribute to the State of Qatar, represented by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, who has announced that he would defray the costs of the national reconciliation conference which is to be held in Somalia;

12. Requests member States, the Ministerial Committee and relevant Arab bodies, funds and institutions to continue to provide material and humanitarian assistance to the Somali people and to allocate the necessary financial and technical resources for recovery and reconstruction in Somalia in coordination with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States;

13. Requests member States to provide assistance in the cultural sphere, to provide access for Somali pupils and students to their schools, institutes and universities and to provide study grants to them in order to preserve the Arab identity of Somalia;

14. Expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General for the efforts he has made and requests him to continue his endeavours to promote national concord in Somalia and to submit a report to the Council at its next session.

(Resolution 5638, 31 March 1997)